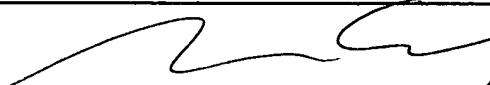


Remarks

Applicants request entry of the above amendment to the claims. Claims 17 and 19 are rewritten in independent form because the dependent claims were of improper dependent form. Claims 17 and 19 are directed to a DNA construct and a protein while the claim upon which they depended is directed to a vaccine vector. The patent statute requires that dependent claims shall specify a further limitation of the subject matter of the parent claim and that dependent claims shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the parent claim. In this case, claims 17 and 19 (originally presented as claims 2 and 12) were dependent from original claim 1, which also was directed to a DNA construct. Claim 1 later was amended to refer to a vaccine vector. This resulted in claims which incorporate all of the features of claim 16, directed to a vector, yet are directed to a DNA construct which is only part of the vector of claim 16. Applicants refer the office to M.P.E.P. §608.01(n)(III).

Claims 2 and 12 (and claims 17 and 19) were intended to claim a protein and a DNA construct as recited in claim 16, therefore the amendment does not result in any change of scope of the claims since the language of claim 16 has been copied into claims 17 and 19. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Applicants request entry of these amendments prior to issuance. If any issues remain, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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